

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. BLODGETT

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. ~~12~~ 41

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the moving of the

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Alaska railroad from Central Alaska

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to Northwest Alaska.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN SECOND

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LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION ASSEMBLED:

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WHEREAS, the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas of Alaska have

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rapidly developed and are no longer in need of railroad facilities

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to expedite their development; and

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WHEREAS, the purpose of the Alaska railroad is to develop

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the entirety of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS, the construction of railroad facilities is always

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followed by the almost spontaneous development of the area served,

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as evidenced by the rapid settlement and abundant productivity of

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the great American West; and

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WHEREAS, Northwest Alaska is in desperate need for develop-

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ment with its present status paralleling the American West prior to

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the coming of the railroad; and

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WHEREAS, the Northwest has vast deposits of coal, copper, and

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other minerals, and a petroleum potential unexcelled by any other

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area in Alaska or, possibly, the North American continent; and

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WHEREAS, a railroad is needed to bring in heavy mining equip-

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ment to exploit these resources and, in turn, to transport these

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resources to the world markets, particularly markets in the Far

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East; and

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WHEREAS, there is considerable demand for reindeer meat,

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1 which is a specialty of Northwest Alaska just as cattle were to
2 the early American West, but the exportation of this meat is
3 impeded by the lack of transportation facilities;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
5 Second Legislature, Second Session assembled, that the U. S.
6 Department of the Interior is respectfully urged to move all the
7 equipment and tracks of the Alaska Railroad from Central Alaska
8 to Northwest Alaska, and that the Alaska Railroad operate in
9 Northwest Alaska from Cape Lisburne through the Kobuk River area
10 and the Seward Peninsula to Port Clarence at Teller, with a
11 main line spur to Nome and Kotzebue; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, that after the tracks of the Alaska Rail-
13 road in Central Alaska have been removed, the roadbed be used as
14 a superhighway connecting Anchorage and Fairbanks; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to
16 the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the
17 Honorable Clinton P. Anderson, Chairman, Senate Committee on
18 Interior and Insular Affairs; the Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall,
19 Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and
20 the members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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